

Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - February 1, 2022

From: Irrelevant

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Date: Tue, 01 Feb 2022 21:01:25 +0000

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<i>Situational Report</i>
Commercial Truck Driver Protest Operational Impacts February 1, 2022

Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in-place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- A severe weather system has impacted three POEs in Manitoba, which has resulted in service disruptions. Detailed information below.
- RCMP has indicated that there are no demonstrators on Parliament Hill or Wellington Street
- Remaining protest activity nationally is not impacting POE operations.
- RCMP increased presence and surveillance at Coutts POE. Enforcement to clear the trucks is occurring.
- In Ottawa, OPS encourages to avoid any non-essential travel to the downtown core.
- It is expected that disruptions to downtown Ottawa are likely to continue throughout the week.

US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

- Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.

Lansdowne, NOR	1	2			2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Total	13	26	21	3	2	

Atlantic Region

No updates to report

Quebec Region

No updates to report

Northern Ontario Region

No updates to report

Southern Ontario Region

Ambassador Bridge:

No updates to report

Windsor-Detroit Tunnel:

No updates to report

Prairie Region

Prairie Region has engaged US CBP and there is an agreement that should the protest activity not be resolved, the hours of service at Carway, Del Bonita and Aden be temporarily expanded to 22:00 each day for all 3 POEs. Their current hours of operation are as follows:

- Carway, AB - 08:00 to 18:00 7 days.
- Del Bonita, AB – 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday
- Aden, AB – 09:00 to 17:00 7 days

Please be advised that due to a severe winter weather system moving through Southern Manitoba toward Saskatchewan, that three small land ports of entry (listed below) are experiencing service disruptions/temporary closure until officers are able to access the POE. Each of the POEs are impacted due to zero visibility highway conditions with many primary highway routes being closed by local Police. Regional business continuity plans have been activated with CBSA communications advising clients and stakeholders. US CBP have been engaged by CBSA Prairie Region.

1. [Coulter, MB](#)
2. [Gretna, MB](#)

3. [Snowflake, MB](#)

The above POEs and other nearby ones, occasionally experience service disruptions due to inclement winter weather. Volumes at these POEs is traditionally very low during winter months.

Coutts:

- February 1, 2022 – As of 13:29hrs MT, the RCMP have begun enforcement action to remove the trucks from the highway.
- February 1, 2022 – As of 12:55hrs MT, the event continues to be monitored. All evening shift employees arrived on time without incident. Preparation is ongoing in anticipation of higher volumes upon highway re-opening.
- February 1, 2022 – As of 10:37hrs MT, it is estimated that 75 trucks are blocking the highway; this number has fluctuated over the past few days. RCMP negotiation efforts to remove the blockade are ongoing as they continue to solicit Canadian towing operators capable of moving the tractor trailers from the highway. Due to intimidation by protest groups, the towing operators have declined to provide the service.
- February 1, 2022 – As of 07:30hrs MT, events remain unchanged. The RCMP advised that the groundwork has been laid for enforcement action today as yesterday's negotiations did not resolve the situation. Enforcement is going to take place and removal of trucks from highway is the main objective, however, it could take time for clearing. RCMP will continue advocating for voluntary compliance throughout. There are no issues with CBSA staff reporting to the POE.

Carway

- February 1, 2022 - As of 07:30hrs MT, no protest activity has been noted at the POE. There was a significant increase in traveller and commercial traffic that diverted from Coutts. Approximately 60 commercial loads were cleared. It should also be noted that the neighboring port of Bel Bonita processed approximately 70 commercial loads from Coutts.

Emerson

- February 1, 2022 – As of 09:06hrs CT, there are no signs of a convoy at this time. Local winter blizzard white out conditions are likely the result of the protesters not being present. Highway 75 is closed between Emerson and Winnipeg and the majority of staff are unable to make it to the POE. Night shift are being held over for coverage.

North Portal

- February 1, 2022 – As of 08:30hrs CT, There is a major winter storm in the area affecting traffic. Many staff have not been able to make it in to work due to snow drifts on the highway and poor visibility. This is likely the result of no activity being reported.

Pacific Region

No updates to report

Intelligence and Enforcement

Intelligence Landscape (Updates in red)

BLUF: February 1, 2022 – As of 13:30hrs ET, the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:

General Threats

- According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.
- There is currently no confirmed end time for the demonstrations, although Ottawa Police Services have stated that they expect downtown Ottawa should be largely back to normal within 24 to 48 hours. Reaction to the protest is continuing to galvanize local residents. As a shift in law enforcement tactics from keeping public order to clearing demonstrators begins, this would present a threat to CBSA NHQ, with the SRS building only four blocks from Parliament Hill.
- Reporting from s.38 states that they have located a Facebook site called “Convoy to Ottawa 2022 Restart”. This may indicate an attempt to organize another convoy of protestors to Ottawa at date in the near future. The s.38 did not indicate the level of online support for this call for a new convoy to Ottawa.

POE Threats

- An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.
- The protest at Coutts persist and there is a new posting on Facebook, “Show Up For Coutts”, calling for a another convoy of trucks to travel from Milk River AB on February 5th to join the protestors at Coutts. At present it is estimated that 75 trucks are blocking the highway – this number has fluctuated over the past few days. With police staging at the POE, this will bring greater emphasis on the Agency. As a result, the threat to CBSA officers or infrastructure may elevate, should the protesters retaliate. We are also seeing a general discontent among truckers and travellers stuck in the blockage at Coutts, with angry and aggressive statements seen online. This may also increase the threat to border service officers, when encountering these frustrated individuals.

Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety.

Other Threats

- The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- Media is reporting that Industry warns that the blockade in Coutts threatens supply chain to the US. In particular, Canadian beef production relies on key border points, like Coutts, to move

critical food supply chain elements (everything from animal feed through to the transport of cattle). The continued blockage of Coutts may quickly become a threat to various commercial, trade, labour and immigration (temporary foreign workers in the Prairies) sectors.

- Social media and news websites in the US indicate that there is an online movement, focused on Facebook pages entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022", to organize a protest convoy of US truckers which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. There are two proposed routes for these convoys, Dallas to D.C and Tampa to D.C.. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada.

Internal Taskforce

No updates to report

Communications

- February 1, 2022 – As of 10:18hrs ET, CBSA Communications received 10 media calls from reporters looking for information on the "freedom blockade" that may be blocking some POEs and affecting CBSA operations.

Other Governmental Departments

February 1, 2022 – As of 12:38hrs ET, there is one known convoy east of Ottawa, but it is expected to remain outside of the City.

February 1, 2022 – As of 12:38hrs ET, information received states that there are little to no demonstrators on Parliament Hill. The crowd of parked trucks has thinned again overnight.

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